from front page

Hence it is not all that surprising that the Scab areas have already made it public that they have consulted their Tory solicitors about the move to see if it can be declared unconstitutional or nipped in the bud.

It goes without saying, of course, that just about the worst thing that could happen to the NUM over Associate Membership is if affiliation were allowed on a party (mainstream or fringe) political basis. The union, under such circumstances, would then become a tool of party whim. But from its own direct experience, the NUM, and most of its members (scabs excluded), has probably had its fill of the party opportunists. Both the mainstream parties and the fringe parties all have one thing in common (although their means of achieving it vary both in type and degree), and that is they wish to use union power for their own ends - either to destroy it, or to control it, but never to be its subject. And that is why revolutionary syndicalism and anarcho-syndicalism scares party political hacks shitless, because revolutionary syndicalism bypasses the party political system, while anarcho-syndicalism is its natural opposition.

The question, though, must be asked, whether other unions that have links with the community will follow this lead? Also, is their any mileage in taking this proposal one step further and for class-based, fighting unions, like the NUM, to form a new alliance - a rank and file alliance, on a dual membership basis, perhaps - to take over from the rightward moving, pro-Capitalist TUC?

These questions will no doubt be asked, and similar ones too, at the Rank and File Congress that is taking place, as we go to press, at Kellingley Colliery to discuss the future of trade unionism and alternatives to what has gone before.

Workers organisations in Britain are now at a crossroad. Laws to compel obedience to state interference have been passed and already some unions are making it clear which side they are on. Within virtually all unions, however, is a rank and file movement that is as yet not organised. To succeed it needs to be self organised, and some are already taking the initiative.

The NUM, by taking into account the importance of the wider support network, in the fight for class justice, is taking just one small step in the direction away from craft-based trade unionism. If workers in other unions were to follow that lead, then we may well be seeing the birth of a syndicalist movement, that could have far-reaching, revolutionary consequences.

In the wake of its defeat the NUM is merely rediscovering its own syndicalist heritage - the Miners Next Step.

(See also inside, 'Have We Lost A War?)

PUBLICATIONS

ANARCHISM AND IRELAND (published by the Workers Solidarity Movement). 26 pages from WSM, PO Box 1528, Dublin 8. Excellent publication covering anarchism, industry, the 'national question', etc.

REBEL WORKER, April/May '85 issue. Can't stop praising this publication. Gets better all the time. Articles include Queensland Power Workers strike, Industry in Iran, Bolivia, Syndicalism and the Australian Public Sector, War, a statement by the US Workers Solidarity Alliance, etc.
Subs: $3 to PO Box 92, Broadway 2007, Sydney, Australia.

THE ANTRIM ALTERNATIVE, produced by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Group, this broadsheet contains news on local housing, elections, etc. 5 pence (plus sae) from Just Books, 7 Winetavern St. Belfast, Northern Ireland

VIRUS, Spring '85, No 3. Revolutionary, class struggle forum for young anarchists. Includes hints for demos, stuff on violence, etc. SAE plus 15p to Virus, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, Angel Alley, London E1, England.

READ AND PASS ON THIS PAPER.

WORLD OF AUTHORITY 3

One story in the press recently, showing the keen sense of compassion felt by the governments of the world, concerns the Koreans trapped in Russia at the end of the Second World War. Forced to go to Sakhalin Island by the Japanese and mostly coming from what became South Korea, many found themselves cut off from relatives and friends in South Korea after the war was over. Most of them are still trapped, (unable to get back to their families), now prisoners of the Russian Government. *The Times*, interviewed a Mrs Kim Tong Yong, who, married only a month, lost her husband to the Japanese in 1942. Five years ago she received the only letter that she has been allowed from her husband, and saying how he hoped to see her in a few years!



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ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY

QUEENSLAND BLOCKADED

As we go to press Queensland, Australia, is virtually under blockade by a massive inter-union strike in response to State anti-strike legislation imposed by the far-right government of Bjelke-Peterson.

The blockade prevented rail, air and sea traffic into Queensland. Most road traffic, apart from the odd cowboys, was stopped too. One estimate is that as a direct result of the blockade over 2 million tonnes of frieght has been stopped from getting into the state. Protests against the anti-strike legislation have been widespread. Demonstrations in Queensland are illegal at all times, but mass pickets went ahead anyway. Telephone and postal traffic has also been disrupted.

Last month over 1000 power workers were sacked for merely going on strike. Earlier the state authorities had outlawed all strike action by power workers. They also began to introduce non-union labour. The new laws also enabled the unions to be fined up to $30,000 if they strike without first giving notice. (this law applies to all the other unions, not the power workers', who are restricted in striking altogether).

As for the 1000 dismissed power workers, Bjelke- Peterson has said they will only be reinstated if they either sign a no-strike agreement and go back to work under a new contract that would extend their working week by 2 hours and their 2 week shift by one day, or to pass on all the names of the 'ringleaders'.

Bjelke-Peterson later said that 'I am not going to allow these militant people...to let anarchy (sic) reign here'. The state authorities are using every law at their disposal in an attempt to crush the strike. Media types have been prosecuted for merely covering the strike, for example.

The extent of Bjelke-Peterson's determination is shown by the thoroughness in which the new laws are designed to plug every loop-hole. Individual strikers, for example, can also be fined up to $1000 for taking strike action and the state also has the power to confiscate their possessions, their homes and to declare them bankrupt.

Solidarity from other unions has been heartening. After the 1000 power workers were sacked for refusing to sign a no-strike agreement, other power station operatives took action, resulting in blackouts in Brisbane and other areas. Soon coal miners also came out and declared an indefinite strike, as did building workers and railway electricians. There was a ban on oil supplies by the seamen's union and this was then followed by industrial action on the part of Telecom and transport workers.

Then, predictably the ACTU and the Australian Labour Party stepped in and ordered the power workers to stop all action. But the strike continued, in that it had been organised from the bottom up, by the Shop Stewards Strike Committees. The solidarity action also grew, in that the power workers committees had spent a lot of time going around the workplaces canvassing support. The trade union bureaucrats had been bypassed. In different parts of Australia workplace groups have organised weekly collections to help out and a Support Network has been established similar to that which grew up in Britain during the Miners Strike. Women have played an important part in this Support Network and it clear, now, that the Miners Strike in Britain has inspired trade unionists in other parts of the world to resist and organise in a way trade unionists have not done so for many a year. Appeals for international solidarity and funding are now being made. Time for mutual aid.

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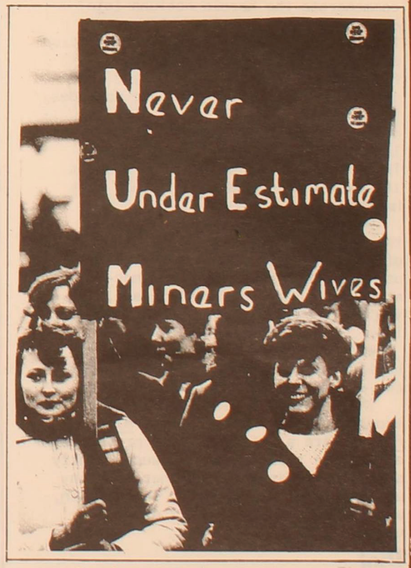
N.U.M. MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE SUPPORT NETWORK

Provision for membership in the National Union of Mineworkers for all members of the Womens Support Groups and other support groups, is to be decided at this years NUM Annual Conference. If the proposal is carried, then quite simply the NUM will no longer be a trade union but will have taken a considerable step in the direction of syndicalism, with significant implications for workers organisations in the UK as a whole.

The proposed change is for a new category of membership to be introduced: that of Associate Membership, specifically designed to take in members of the Support Network.

The move would pay recognition to the essential role the community-based organisations play in the defence of class interests, and how, if unions in the future are to win the fight against the class enemy, a wider class base needs to be built up in preparation for the battles ahead.

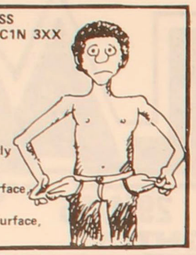
No other union in this country has ever before considered such a step. British, craft-based, trade unionism has a history of sectionalism and protectionism, which over the years has compounded the erosion of inter-industry solidarity that was so badly needed to win the '84/'85 strike. In South Wales the NUM and the local communities have always been as one; in other areas too. This move would merely constitutionalise what has now become practice in the mining areas.



A union that is organised both on an industrial front and on a community front is twice as strong, as the mining communities have demonstrated for all to see.

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

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Municipal Policing

The Director of the 'radical, socialist' London Borough of Hackney's Housing Department has been reported of actively co-operating with the Anti-Terrorist Squad by supplying names of over 2000 council tenants to them for their records. Presumably a significant number of the names would have been of citizens of Irish origin, given the preoccupation of the ATS with that part of the world.

One wonders if this is not the tip of the proverbial iceberg and that similar co-operation is found in other boroughs? It wasn't long back that we reported on another 'socialist' borough – Islington, in north London, where detailed files were kept on all ethnic minorities – ostensibly for reasons of 'positive discrimination' but, as we commented at the time, available for successive authorities too, the Social Security

Incitement

The London-based anarchist/squatters paper, Crowbar, is offering free subscriptions for a deed/deeds well done...We quote verbatim:

As you may remember from a couple of issues back, we pointed out that the Metropolitan Police had planted a cherry tree in St. James' Square to commemorate the heroic actions (sic) of the Libyans when they blew away little piggy Yvonne Fletcher. We offered a years free subscription to the first person who cut it down and sent us a branch. Well, some heroic comrades from Bristol were the first ones to do it, so they get the congratulations and the free subscription. There was no news in the papers about it, as may be expected, and they must have replaced it pretty fast.

However this is no excuse for the rest of you to get slack, the offer still holds, if you can get us her tomstone, or the commemorative plaque in St James' Square, you will get a years free subscription.

We are also offering a lifetime's supply and the Victoria Cross if you can provide us with her exhumed body.

(N.B. Never to be outdone by our excellent sister publication, Black Flag offers a lifetimes free prisoners' aid to the first person to successfully assassinate Margaret Thatcher – or any other leading reactionary. There again, we hope such a prize would prove unnecessary!)

Riot

Russell Broomhead, the Yorkshire miner who was shown on TV beeing repeatedly truncheoned by a cop at Orgreave in full glare of the TV cameras, has been charged with committing riot! Obviously, by allowing himself to be beaten in such a deplorable way, he was only inciting others to go beserk.

NEWS HOME NEWS

Miners Levy

Many workplaces around the country are organising voluntary weekly levies to support dismissed and imprisoned miners and their families. Also some are 'twinning' with a prisoner. Where there is union or branch opposition to both schemes workers are organising things for themselves. Twinning with a prisoner and organising a levy are two things that workplace miners support groups can do as a preliminary to more essential longer-term preperations for industrial action

On A Limb

Miners at Askern pit were in dispute with local management. The union officials refused to back them. Since then management has imposed a lock-out on all at the pit regardless as to whether they were involved or not. Traditionally if one unit is in dispute other units not in dispute are not asked out by their comrades. In this particular case management intervention has pulled everyone out as a form of punishment, using the backpeddling of the local union officials as a lever.

SOURCE: J (Doncaster).

We're The Union

Coal Board management in some areas are cracking down all round regardless, even, as to whether the victim is an ex-striker or an ex-scab. We heard of one incident where a scab objected to being downgraded and on approaching management and threatening them with the union (!), was told 'We are the union now. You have let your union down'.

SOURCE: MC

OBITUARY

Just over a week ago 43 year old Alan Ball, one of the unsung heroes of the 12 month Miners Strike, died, suddenly, of a pancreatic disorder. At his funeral people from both Hatfield and Stainforth in South Yorkshire marched behind the Hatfield Main NUM banner, which was draped in black for the occasion.

His friends and comrades recalled how he had picketed every single day of the strike. He had been at Orgreave, seen action at Nottingham and took part in the mass pickets in Yorkshire. Even when he returned home after a day on the front line, he would generally spend the remainder of his time cutting logs to provide fuel for pensioners.

Dave Douglass, Hatfield Main NUM branch delegate, told us, 'He didn't die on the line, but he fought there daily, and then every day at the wood yard and at weekends with ASLEF and NUR collecting sleepers. If anyone deserved to live, he did; he fought hard for the quality of life and for justice, then he goes and dies of a bloody rare disease, which, if detected, could have been cured and he would have been saved and he'd be with us now. But on this occasion, by the time they had discovered what it was, it was too late. From being perfectely OK, and fit, he was dead within 18 hours. It has shaken this community to its roots; we were all very fond of him and respected him very much'.

Vendetta

CND and women at Greenham Common have commented that they fear that there is an organised vendetta against them and that they may become a target for attacks. They point to a recent incident in which two women peace protesters at Greenham were attacked and bludgeoned with clubs. CND has already received a warning, via a letter, threatening physical violence and they believe that there might be a connection between the attack on Greenham and the threatening letter. Peace campaigners are a soft target and are generally without protection. On this subject it was not surprising that the Coalition For Peace Through Security leader, Lady Olga Maitland, got plenty of police protection at Molesworth on the Easter protests.

TUC Moles

A couple of issues back we suggested, in the wake of the Cathy Massiter revelations, that it was highly probable that MI5 operatives/informers are in positions of power in trade union bureaucracies, perhaps all the way to the TUC General-Secretaryship itself. Since then the National Union of Seamen General Secretary, Jim Slater, has exposed his own latter-day officials as recipients of MI5 surveillance dossiers.

Slater's evidence, apparently, was first presented to a Commons Select Committee investigating the scope of MI5 activities. But they refused to even look at it. Slater has since explained that most of the material put together by MI5 was obtained through burglaries with the active assistance of the, then, NUS officials.

Di' Starves 77

77 dole recipients live for one year on the £100,000 Lady Diana spent on her clothes for her Italian trip. One worker earns that much in 15 years work. The rest of the trip cost even more. Are the Sun's,and all, daily hype on the Royality's quaint habits a way of promoting passive cultural loyality. Will the new slogan be: "Let them eat clothes"?

GET WITH IT!



SUBSCRIBE

INDUSTRIAL

NACODS Wavers

Suddenly discovering trade union principles, or maybe it's a case of dredging up a modicum of credibility, NACODS (the pit deputies' union) in a 'better late than never move' has made aggressive noises about taking industrial action to prevent the closure of Bedwas colliery in South Wales.

Trouble is a halt of the pits nationally by NACODS could not come at a worse time of the year: the winter is over and the miners are still trying to recover from 12 months of being on the breadline. If they do take action, maybe they should therefore bring Nottinghamshire and the other renegade areas to a halt and force the scabs to go without pay for a while.

The time when NACODS should have come out was last November. Suddenly though they have come to the rather late realisation that they have been hoodwinked by the Coal Board on the review procedure agreement. Some Bedwas miners, demoralised, have already agreed to accept redundancy payments, others want to fight but are wary of what can be achieved the way things are.

Bedwas is by no means the only pit under immediate threat. There are nine marked for closure, three in Scotland, two in Kent and the rest in the North East. The Coal Board is using the excuse of 'irreparable damage' to close some of these pits.

N.B. NACODS has just been reported as making noises about balloting its members for an overtime ban in response to the threatened pit closures. Whether it gets a mandate is irrelevant: NACODS has already shown that its leadership can be induced to ignore mandates. Already the leadership is talking about seeing the Prime Minister to discuss the situation, which is a good indication of how they see things (ie, the influence of government being paramount). If a mandate is given, and lo and behold the executive takes it up, or even if the membership takes unofficial action, then, as stated above, surely there is a case for limiting the action to the Scab Areas and only the other Areas if the NUM members so request? Let the scabs starve for a while.



ROT ALL RULERS

Have We Lost A War?

A valued comrade wrote to us regretfully cancelling his subscription, for "the war is over, and I'm afraid we've lost". Many miners feel equally depressed and its no good saying we only lost a battle, not a war. One of the greatest upsurges of the workers for many years, in this country certainly, has ended with a victory for starvation tactics, with the forces of repression entrenched, with cynics smiling and those who flinched from battle feeling justified.

It is true there is a positive angle: that thousands of English, Welsh and Scottish miners have learned that the heavy hand that rules in the north of Ireland can fall on them too overnight; they have relearned the techniques they pioneered in free co-operation and solidarity in which the women from the mining communities in particular have shown once again some of the mechanism that would make a free society tick.

But they have not won. Nor can it be said that they were betrayed by their 'leaders'. They have not put trust in leaders, who have been content to follow the movement rather than presume to direct it, and the politicos among them have lost all credibility as the TUC has proved itself once again useless in regard to showing solidarity, capable only of delivering votes to the Labour Party.

Could they have ever won? The most that the miners were fighting for was the right to be exploited in the same way they had always been; to carry on with the same exhaustive work they had always done. They were fighting a rearguard action against a vicious enemy. All they were trying to preserve was their place in the battlefield. They did not want their communities broken up and people dispersed from productive work to become car-park attendants and door openers in the prosperous south. In going back without an agreement they have at least maintained a presence in the coalfields.

In the past, following victories and defeats, the miners have had mighty discussions on how they should proceed, on what should be the future of the industry, and on how they should prepare for a battle to take over command of their destiny.

In the early part of the century, miners took an active part in establishing the Trade Union Congress, so that all workers could come to the assistance of each other. This was doomed to disaster since the growing trade union leadership sought to establish themselves, and extend to political power, rather than form a fighting union. Their idea was that if they could exert political power, they could obtain more from parliamentary than industrial action. The closed-shop principle, dear to the hearts of British trade unionism, meant that leaderships were impregnable (dare to challenge the machine and you're out, with nowhere else to go to), but that nobody was ready for industrial action, everyone expecting Parliament to step in or political influence to be used. Unions sought legalisation which has now resulted in the courts taking over and presuming to decide union policy – much as if during the war German Generals were enforcing British military policy.

The greatest debate of all was on NATIONALISATION OR SYNDICALISM. The decision went wholly in favour of the former. That distinguished 'Socialist' theoretician, Ramsay Macdonald, proved convincingly that state socialism was incompatible with syndicalism, and that his answer (taken from the Fabian Society) was nationalisation. It was strange that nationalisation should have become poular in Britain as a socialist measure, since in Germany it had already been adopted in the 19th Century as a capitalist one by Bismark,who nationalised the railways, to benefit the landed estates and to exploit the workers.

The syndicalists were attacked for various reasons, every one of which is seen now to be phoney. It was thought heavy industry could hold the country to ransom – it was held that workers control meant that there would be no place for the community – it was alleged that there would be an excess of power in the hands of key industry workers. All these Macdonaldite arguments carried the day; and as a result heavy industry holds us to ransom, the communities are destroyed and there is an excess of power in the hands of managements.

Nationalisation of the mines, originally a compromise solution, became a dream of miners throughout the '20's and '30's, and in 1945 the Labour Party came into power and it was the first promise it carried out. The national flag flew at all the pitheads. The mines became 'ours'.

The National Coal Board was created and was hailed as the harbinger of the state socialost utopia. It is this same National Coal Board that is the enemy today. The old private owners could not have withstood the billions of pounds losses incurred by a year long strike. The NCB can.

The TUC notion that it is only Mr MacGregor's wilfulness that is at fault and that if Mrs Thatcher were not Prime Minister and Mr Kinnock was, the NCB would still be 'ours', is pathetic. It is the NCB that is the enemy. It was a sad day for the miners when they decided that they would follow the path of state socialism and nationalisation, encouraged by the 'militancy' of the Communist Party integrating itself into the establishment, and rejected syndicalism. If, or rather when (as they may do) they return to the old method of struggle they would find that a greater battle might well be won.

A.M.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Bathurst Riots

Every year at Easter, Bathurst is the venue for a major Motorcycle Race; it is also the venue for riots. This year was no exception...

Altogether there were over 100 injured (mainly police), 429 charges raised against 109 people, ranging from minor traffic offences to riotous behaviour and throwing explosive substances (molotovs). Two cops, according to the police prosecutor at a subsequent Bathurst court hearing, were 'engulfed in flames' when hit by mollies.

Violence at the Bathurst races has been a tradition for more than a decade, with bikers getting involved more recently. Last year the Tactical Response Group (riot cops - formed in 1982) were deployed at the Bathurst Races for the first time. After their initiation, TRG men went around sporting 'I survived Bathurst' T-shirts.

Don Freudenstein (an advocate of community policing), in charge of the police at the races this year, has warned that next year rubber bullets and tear gas will be used. Freudenstein didn't come out so well though: he got bricked, bottled and finally hit by a petrol bomb before the '85 riot was over.

A Channel 7 TV crew didn't fare so well either. Their car was firebombed while the crew were conferring with police in their compound. More than £20,000 worth of damage was caused to the equipment inside. In the lead-up to the races, Channel 7, as with the other TV stations and press generally, treated the riots like a TV 'mini-series'.

Altogether this years riot lasted 6 hours and ended at 4am. Apart from molotovs, beer cans, bottles and bricks, sticks of gelignite were also used against the police. The riot police responded with baton charges.

News on the '86 riot, same time, next year...

(The above report was edited.)

Later a TRG officer confessed that they were on the verge of using live ammo (a la South African style). He also said he couldn't believe it that every time one of his team went down after being hit 'the crowd cheered - can you believe it - they actually cheered'.*



Maoism or Anti-Militarism?

In Spain confusion still reigns with the authorities on who may have been responsible for the bomb attack on a Madrid restaurant that resulted in the death of 18 and the injury of more than 80.

The popular theory in police circles is that an 'extreme Moslem group' is to blame. The theory goes that the Beirut based Islamic Jihad was responsible, the same group also getting the blame for a bombing of a bar in Athens. Both the bar and the Madrid restaurant were frequent haunts of US servicemen. Police have justified their allegations by pointing to hits on dissident Arabs living in Spain, claimed by Jihad, and also by the design of the bomb, which did not fit in with the designs used by other indigenous armed struggle groups.

The British Sunday Times, however goes one step further. Doing the usual trick of making assumption sound like fact, the ST journalist James Adams claimed that the bombing was obviously part of the growing Euro-Guerrilla alliance, and was part of the same campaign begun last November by Action Directe (France), the CCC (Belgium) and the Red Army Fraction (W Germany). The restaurant bomb in Madrid killed Spanish civilians and injured many more; it was claimed that the bomb had gone off too late and that US servicemen were the real target. Had the far-right claimed the bombing, there would be no reason to doubt it. The far-right, like left nationalists, share the same sort of anti-imperialism, if for different motives.

Like jackals, later claims to the outrage came from ETA as well as GRAPO - hence the speculation that the attack was really part of the wider anti-NATO campaign. The army has put it about that the Basque armed struggle groups are forming wider alliances; greater co-operation with other Euro security services are to be sought. Only a couple of weeks after Spain's entry into the EEC, this is all very convenient.

ETA, like the IRA, is left nationalist; the Jihad is fundamentalist nationalist - neither politics has little to do with anti-militarism and it is a farce for the Sunday Times, or for any armed struggle group involved in attacks of this nature, to claim otherwise.

Anti-militarism may well be the common denominator that brings various armed struggle groups together to challenge NATO, in its role as the main military force in Europe, but it is nationalism that clearly distinguishes the statists from the anti-statists. Alliances between different ideological groupings, in the name of anti-militarism are being formed in Europe, that is without question; what is in doubt is the revolutionary objectives of these groupings, who so far have not been able to generalise the struggle away from the strictly vanguardist form it has taken over the last 10 years or so.

Votes Not Action

As we go to press the stoppage continues above the heads of the union leaders. After 17 days of industrial unrest thousands of workers defied calls to return and closed down factories, schools, hospitals, newspapers, public transport and government departments.

Radio stations and TV stations suffered. At the docks 700 staged a mass picket at the ferries to Sweden; other ports remained closed, including Copenhagen itself. Another mass siege took place outside Parliament; again 100,000 took part. Trains were also disrupted. Protesters lay down on tracks and pulled emergency handles to bring trains to a halt.

The Social Democrats (Danish Labour Party - now in opposition, not in power, as incorrectly stated in our last issue) are insisting on disputes being localised and for the mass action to end; they are also insisting that the demand for a reduction in working hours be dropped too, to be resumed when they (the Social Democrats) are in power. (In other words, the usual story of the opposition party asking that all rebellion cease and for the electorate to put their faith in them as the party that will magically meet all demands, so long as they're given power.) The Danish Trade Union Federation has officially backed the Social Democrat's line; up until now the trade union leadership has refused outright to fund the strike action or to allow official strike funds, even, to be made available for general use.

SOURCE: Danish Anarchist Federation.



Support Aussie Strikers!

(see front page)

Retaliation

Action Directe have claimed responsibility for three bomb attacks, which were undertaken as part of a campaign against the far-right, specifically the National Front, led by Le Pen.

There were no casualties incurred. The three targets were: the offices of Minute (a far-right paper), a government immigration office, and an Israeli bank. With the latter we cannot help but comment that no doubt Le Pen, an anti-semitic, and his fascist friends will be adding their congratulations. Le Pen, though, was clearly worried by the bombings and tried to blame SOS Racism, another far-right caucus, for providing the excuse. The attack on Minute, a supporter of the National Front, was the second by Action Directe in three years.

W Germany

Parallel to the Easter peace movement protests, two bombings against military targets were carried out, one of which was claimed by the Revolutionary Cells.

The bombing of the NATO pipeline near Stuttgart was carried out by the Ulrike Meinhof Fighting Unit - Revolutionary Cells. Another bombing occurred on the same day at the offices of a nearby military equipment company. A third bomb at Hamburg was defused. All bombs were placed so as to ensure no injury.

The bombings also took place only days after the sentencing of two Red Army Fraction fighters, Brigitte Mohnhaupt and Christian Klar. Both received successive life sentences. They were convicted on several counts, including alleged assassinations (specifically Jurgen Ponto, the leading industrialist, and Siegfried Buback, the Chief Prosecutor) and kidnapping (specifically Hans Martin Schleyer, president of the Employers' Federation).

N.B. We have compiled a list of all the prisoners - RAF, June 2 Movement, etc - who took part in the December/January hunger strike offensive. Details of conditions, sentences and prison addresses, etc are supplied. If anyone wishes to get hold of a copy of this list of prisoners - who, we should emphasise to those new to the movement, are not all anarchists by any means, but have received critical anarchist support - just send in a sae and we'll send it on.

Spain

On March 8th, Barcelona's only squatters group were forcibly evicted from a house they had occupied for two weeks in the Gracia district of the city.

They slept the following night in the street (in protest) and re-squatted the next day. The police were helpless to do anything because they need a formal complaint against the squatters before any eviction can legally take place!

The story has been on the local TV channel and every newspaper carries photos and sympathetic coverage. Even the neighbours are sympathetic. There is no dole in Spain and the only source of income for the Group in busking. This is the only organised Squatters Group in Spain, so help them out. Donations can be sent *c/o Bolivar Group, Eva Gomez Tarne, Avd. Gran Via 23, 60-4a Derecha, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona SPAIN.* Publications and contact addresses are also welcome.

Other news: There's a postal strike in Catalonia (North-East Region of Spain) organised by the CNT-AIT (anarcho-syndicalist union). It has received a lot of popular support and around 1,000 people demonstrated their support for the strike in Central Barcelona on March 7th.

SOURCE: M.T.

Ireland

The Irish National Liberation Army has claimed responsibility for a bombing at the Dunnes Department store in Dublin. The store has recently been the subject of a campaign against its stocking of South African goods, resulting in the sacking of 12 workers for taking strike action. The bomb was deliberately timed so that there would be no injuries.

We have no details yet of a bombing in Belgium of a NATO target, except that it was allegedly claimed by a hitherto unknown group.

CONTRA - W.A.C.L



General John K Singlaub

The far-right World Anti-Communist League is now openly funding Central American contras parallel to CIA aid. The 'Moonies' - a well known WACL financier - is also in on the act.

Since Congress questioned CIA aid, WACL has been raising around $500,000 a month for the contras. WACL has been utilising the services of Soldier of Fortune to organise military training facilities, the supply of counter-insurgency experts and the deployment of mercenaries. The 'Institute for Regional and International Studies' in Boulder, Colorado currently functions as a centre for the training of contras and Salvadorean Anti-Terrorist forces. The Institute was established jointly by 'Soldier of Fortune' and WACL. WACL is connected with numerous other organisations involved in contra fundraising/training: mercenary set-ups, Cuban exile groups, terror organisations, fascist movements, government security forces, and official government agencies (eg, CIA, Defence Department, etc).

El Salvador's Roberto d'Aubuisson is a WACL delegate and a leading figure in its Central American arm, Confederacion Anticommunista Latino-americana. CAL over the years has been involved in the sponsorship of a number of 'death squad' type exercises, including the 'Banzer Plan' that led to the decimation of leftist priests and nuns, especially in El Salvador and Guatamala.

The American Council for World Freedom is the US section of WACL and its chairman (sic) is retired General John K Singlaub. The ACWF has connections with virtually all the far-right organisations in the USA as well as with Congress and the White House Administration. In the past Singlaub has acted as an unofficial advisor to Reagan on Central American affairs. As well as the Boulder training centre other WACL sponsored death squad centres have been established in Florida (with the help of the Cuban exile Alpha 66 set-up) and California.

Recent exposure of WACL/Soldier of Fortune covert activities in Central America has only been the tip of the iceberg. Death Squads have been operating with WACL aid in Guatamala for several years without press attention.



fruits of Contra labour

The editor and publisher of 'Soldier of Fortune', Robert Brown, is himself a US Army-trained expert on counter-insurgency who has had battlefield experience in Central America, as well as Southern Africa. Brown in addition boasts of Special Forces experience in Vietnam and involvement in training Cuban exiles in preparation for the Bay of Pigs exercise. Brown learnt most of his clandestine warfare techniques as a Special Operations Group operative sent in to annhilate Viet Cong militia. One of his colleagues in SOG was none other than Singlaub. One of Brown's latest escapades was 'to be seen' and photographed going through the personal files of the ex-Grenadian Minister of Defence on the day of the invasion by US troops.

Singlaub and Brown are by no means mere 'independents'. They work with and for the CIA and help prepare the ground for CIA controlled operations. Singlaub liaised with the CIA in Vietnam when he personally supervised operations Phoenix and Omega. At that time Singlaub reported directly to William Colby, who subsequently became CIA Director. One technique that Singlaub perfected during the Phoenix operation was the use of pseudo-gang warfare - namely the carrying out of attrocities but making it look as if they were committed by the enemy. Through SOG Singlaub also carried out a programme of guerrilla warfare training at ground level to sympathetic Vietnamese and Laotians.

Since 1975 Singlaub and Brown have organised under the banner of Special Operations Association. Singlaub is also vice-Chairman (sic) of the hawkish Coalition for Peace through Strength, which carries a great deal of influence over defence matters in the White House. The Coalition also acts as a major counter organisation to the Peace lobby, funds research into 'subversives' and anti-nuclear organisations and generally campaigns for nuclear superiority.

A couple of months back it was reported in the New Statesman that Singlaub had been appointed as chairman of a special Pentagon policy committee whose brief it was to review Central American military policy. Also on the same committee was Heine Aderhold, a 'Soldier of Fortune' editor specialising in 'unconventional warfare'.

Last September we reported on the shooting down of a helicopter in Nicaragua carrying two US citizens; these men were contracted out to the CIA through 'Soldier of Fortune'. It is also suspected that SoF had a hand in the putting together of the infamous 'freedom fighters' manual, which Washington tried to play down in the wake of Congress' refusal to sanction more aid for CIA covert activities in the region.

What should now be fairly obvious is that WACL and the CIA are together controlling covert operations in at least one region of the world, namely Central America, and that contra troops are being used by far-right forces from far afield to destabilise the region, the objective of which is to create a far-right buffer zone as a testing area for developing and perfecting psychological warfare, mercenary intervention, covert operations, etc.

(N.B. For an overview of WACL, see Anarchy Magazine issue 37).

MAIL DOMINATED

Within a space of two weeks the postal dispute has flared up once again and was 'resolved' by union intervention. The first time round the dispute was over part-timers and new working practices; the second time it was over the non-payment of bonnuses. In both cases these were but superficial causes; the real causes being poor pay, long hours and job losses. Below is a detailed report on the situation and on the union leaderships' performance in attempting to contain strike action.

The Issues

The UCW (postal workers union) executive has bought time from Post Office management in order to secure from UCW Annual Conference, in two weeks time, agreement to a productivity scheme and the acceptance of a vastly enlarged part-time workforce. Management, in turn, have pulled away from provocative action so as to provide the UCW leadership with the opportunity to wrap things up and nip in the bud any attempt by membership to take strike action.

The issue as portrayed in the press is seemingly about the right for postal workers to earn vast amounts of money through overtime, thus preventing the creation of new job - albeit part-time - opportunities. In spite of the 'overtime barons' that are associated with the industry, this presentation is mostly untrue and an oversimplification of the facts. The issues at stake are as follows. Firstly, postal workers work a basic 43 hour week and for that take *home less than £70 per week on average.* For years PO management have refused to improve either pay or to reduce hours. Secondly, postal workers have managed to resist permanent productivity schemes: new management proposals for bringing in part-timers are tied to a productivity package. Thirdly the UCW Executive has been mandated by Conference to negotiate for a phased-in 30 hour week (with no reduction in pay) by 1990; no attempt has so far been made to effect this and the new PO management deal would preclude any reduction in hours for full time workers.

PO management wants to bring in an extra 12,000 part-timers in addition to the already 8000 part-timers (first introduced in 1981). True,this will create job opportunities for the already unemployed. But what management doesn't make clear is that some of these 12,000 new jobs will in fact be created by natural wastage out of existing full-time jobs. Furthermore the creation of part-time jobs falls neatly within the wider government strategy of expanding the lower-paid, casualised sector, which in turn will be cut off from the oppoortunity of full time employment or any other income supplement. Casualising postal workers might well be the first step in a campaign that will include other major industries.

Objectives

Wider union objectives ought to be the reduction of hours of full-time workers but without incurring any financial penalty. Government strategy appears to be to create more jobs by encouraging employers to gradually employ less people on full-time rates. Already the PO management have proven that they do not see casualisation as a temporary move in that part of the deal includes permanent pension rights for all the part-time recruits; in other words there will be a contractual agreement between employer and worker to accept low pay as a permanent feature in exchange for part-time hours.

The dispute came to the forefront about three weeks back with a walk-out by over 3000 postal workers at the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in central London. The walk-out was about productivity arrangements and working conditions and was caused by the dismissal of 2 workers who refused to handle an experimental coding machine, known as an OCR. The UCW chief, Alan Tuffin, was at the time in the middle of negotiations with management on the question of part-timers. The UCW was under the impression that management would not be recruiting part-timers until after the UCW Annual Conference when Tuffin and crew would be attempting to persuade delegates to accept the management package. However Tuffin's plans to placate the membership were scuppered when news, that management had secret plans to begin a recruitment campaign the following week, was leaked to UCW shop stewards. The next day Tuffin had to concede that strike action was imminent and two days later came the unofficial Mount Pleasant walk-out.

Excuse

For some months now UCW members in several major sorting offices have been looking for the right excuse to take strike action and force the UCW leadership's hand. When news of the Mount Pleasant walk-out spread, within hours other walk-outs took place at other key offices, notably Basingstoke, Stevenage and Manchester. Management totally panicked: sales campaigns were cancelled, advertising dropped and the recruitment campaign for part-timers postponed.

At PO Headquarters other unions had already responded by instructing all members that anyone found doing work normally undertaken by a UCW worker would be expelled from the union. Tuffin and colleagues were meeting with management by then trying to thrash out a formula to get the Mount Pleasant workers back. Management, on government instructions, got a Court injunction to order the Mount Pleasant postal workers back. The UCW leadership refused to back the unofficial action further and ordered everyone back, promising a strike ballot - but only at Mount Pleasant (to involve Mount Pleasant workers only) and not the 170,000 other postal workers throughout the rest of the country. As it was the UCW Executive recinded the ballot call and demanded that no further industrial action to be taken and for the membership to allow the EC to put the case (management's case) for the implementation of the new measures at Annual Conference.

The latest phase of the dispute took place last week when virtually every major sorting office in the Midlands and Eastern Postal Regions (and some also in London) were closed due to walk-outs.

It all began at Northampton when postal workers discovered they would not be paid bonuses for delivering ballot cards for local County elections. In the past such mail has been handled seperately and bonuses paid. But this



OCR - try putting sand in!

time it went with the rest of the mail and the PO picked up extra revenue for taking on the job, but this revenue was not passed on to the workforce. It was a legitimate demand, therefore, to insist on bonuses.

What happened next was that some postal workers refused to handle the ballot forms; this led to instant dismissals, which were viewed as provocative action, which in turn led to a walk-out at Northampton. Immediately Barclaycard got in on the act: on hearing of the walk-out they used private vehicles to move all their mail to Peterborough Sorting Office. When postal workers at Peterborough heard what was going on, they too refused to handle the extra mail and came out in sympathy. And so it went on: all mail from Northampton and Peterborough was moved to other offices, which in turn refused to take it and out came the postal workers. Within a matter of hours every major sorting office in the Midlands was closed.

Others in the nearby Eastern Region next came out and by the following day sorting offices in London were also affected.

Customers

One thing that really got PO management really worried was the prospect of upsetting their business customers. Datapost, the Post Office's courier arm, specially set up to handle business mail, has a no-strike agreement with the UCW. However this has been broken in the latest round in that all the Datapost Service Centres were cut off.

This was all brought about by unofficial action, taken at rank and file level. It had not been sanctioned by UCW leadership, who within a matter of hours were at Post Office HQ trying to tie up some sort of deal with management to get everyone back to work.

By the weekend the dispute had spread to sorting offices in the north and over 20 million letters had been held up. At that point Northamptonshire County Council took back their ballot forms and (as we go to press) are 'looking at alternative means of distribution'. In other words, they will attempt to strike break by using either non-unionised labour or cowboy outfits.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

Imprisoned Miners

The following miners are no longer at Ranby Prison (Retford), if returned mail is anything to go by:

PETER COOPER
ROB ANDREWS

Any news about these two comrades (eg, if they've been released or if they have been moved), readers should please let us know.

The following imprisoned miners have not been included in previous lists (see Issues 128 and 129):

Dennis Pennington (sentence and prison number unknown), Kirkham Prison, nr. Preston, Lancs.

George Richardson (4 months, prison number unknown), Wetherby Prison, Wetherby.

Prison Update

Anarchist Pippo Scarso, originally sentenced to 12 months for refusing to do military service for the state, has managed to get his sentence commuted to house arrest.

Two anarchist prisoners, Armando Garcia Pons and Alan Drogou, were released in March by the Spanish authorities after paying a bail of 500,000 pesetas each.

Six Spanish anarchist prisoners have just been adopted by three local groups of the Direct Action Movement.



Murrays

The February date for the Court hearing was called off at the last moment, according to information just received, and a new hearing has been set for May 14. Seems that mail has not been getting through to us. Anyway Noel and Marie wish to thank all those comrades who contributed to the last fund-raising appeal. We would particularly like to thank the following:

LDAG, TM (Devon), Orlando ABC, TO, Brixton Anarchists, Coventry/Leamington Spa/Warwick Anarchists, PD (Montreal), DS (Wiltshire), SB (Cosham).'

As soon as we know more we'll publish the details. In the meantime the Appeal remains open.

Crewe Miners Support Group are to keep going 'in order to offer the same kind of support to those who may find themselves under attack'. During the Strike they raised over £9,000 for North Derbyshire miners and their families via factory and Street collections, jumble sales and raffles. They also arranged a successful meeting at the Oakley Centre attended by over 600 people, the largest single meeting of its kind in Crewe since WW2. Crewe Support Group can be contacted c/o *A.U.E.W. District Offices, 38 St. Pauls Street, Crewe. Tel: 213000).*

Translation

In issue No. 125 dated 28th Jan, on Spanish prisoners, there is a note on Jordi Sole Sungranyes which might be misinterpreted.

He is described as "an ex-anarchist militant" who has just been released from prison cleared of charges arising from "his alleged activities in the MIL".

It is a general custom in the Spanish anarchist movement to refer to the MIL as "the ex-MIL" or "former MIL" for various reasons, and our comrade Sungranyes was an anarchist militant in the "ex-MIL". The reference was not meant to imply he had changed his libertarian allegiance and we hope it was not so taken.

In-jargon is the very devil to translate!

NB: Movement Iberia Libertaria was the Iberian Libertarian Movement encompassing militants from Portugual and Spain.

FEEDBACK

Dear Friends,

We are writing to potentially head off any misunderstandings, trouble and confusion which may possibly aries through our choice of name, especially with regard to M@d Emm@'s letter from Bradford viz. NF confusion tactics, (see *Black Flag* No. 125).

To say we're a theatre collective would be to sell ourselves short; our live work includes slides, video, film, music, dance as well as a bit of drama. All members of the collective are anarchists first and foremost; our artswork is not something separate and apart but an extension of our committment to anarchist ideas and actions.

An anarchist performance collective may, at first, seem something of an irrelevance at best and an indulgence at worst - but it's not something we do instead of but as well as.

We are presently putting together a prospectus of sorts. As soon as it's finished and printed we'll send you a copy. The prospectus will contain all the relevant information about our project - including an extensive note on the choice of name.

Much thanks for producing an excellent newsbulletin.

Yours in solidarity and friendship,
M. Dike & B. Sinclair
on behalf of THE FRONT collective.
Flat one, ye olde Registry,
Cable Street, Lancaster.

REPLY: *In our exposure of the fascist groupings camouflaging themselves in libertarian colours, we meant exactly what we said. Many instances of this can be supplied from* Nationalism Today *and other fascist magazines where they are trying to pass themselves off as libertarians, and using anarchist slogans, to try and escape from the Nazi tag. (This is thought of as the German fascist Strasser's tactic; in fact it is the Russian Marxist Lenin's).*

M@d Emm@'s letter emphasised these dangers which have to be exposed; what is happening is that the NF and other loony right groupings (eg. the 'libertarian' Federation of Conservative Students) are trying to build up support outside the yobbo circle by using the Anarchist criticisms of the Left and the Peace Movement, when they intend to get sufficient following to become credible to the capitalist class once again, a credibility they have totally lost.

Obviously this had nothing to do with THE FRONT *- it is true some skinheads use this as a general name for the National Front, but there is no reason why they should monopolise the name. Despite its name, "The Front" sounds all right to us.*

WARNING: A quasi-fascist grouping - actually financed by foxhunting interests - is moving into or rather, alongside animal liberation circles (just as Fascist groupings used 'animal liberation to firebomb Bengali Halal butcher shops) and may be behind the recent spate of poisoned food stories. It is hoped to get details for a future issue.

Information

Will anyone having information about Eurotherme Automation Ltd of Worthing, please contact PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Dear Friends,

I wonder if great 'Individualist' and 'non-violent anarchist' Peter Neville, exposed by you as a mole (or chameleon), if not perhaps of the Tony Jones type, mentions 'individualism' and his dislike for 'socialism' - whether State or libertarian - to the GMC of the Chiswick and Brentford Labour Party (who might mistake it for SDP leanings), or does he need to qualify himself as well as a 'non-violent Labourite'?

Which faction in the torn-apart Labour Party does he support, if he is not working for the SDP under cover, the right wing or one of the trot factions? He might talk his dilemma over with Arthur Moyse (who is on the GMC of the Hammersmith South Labour Party), who has learned to live with it.

The moles left behind in the old burrow now have a new ploy: they contrast 'authoritarian anarchism'(!) - rather than use the old term 'violent anarchism' as if they're ashamed of being pacifists now - with their 'non-authoritarianism', which is apparently compatible with their being officials of bureaucratic unions (while opposing syndicalism on 'libertarian' grounds) and executives of the Labour Party.

Ever since Herbert Morrison the Labour Party has had a fringe devoted to the disruption as well as the surveillance of bodies such as the anarchists. The recent exposure of Harry Newton, well known in Labour Party, CP and CND circles, as an MI5 mole, does not come as a surprise to me. I am sure you must know of many who have battened on the anarchists, too. Why don't you publish a list or something?

ESTHER A SYMONDS.

We do, and maybe someday shall.BFC.